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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1799.

Downing-Street, November 28, 1799.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received this Day from the Right Honorable Lord William Bentinck by the Right Honorable Lord Grenville, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

Head-Quarters, Montenaux,
October 26, 1799.

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that a Report was this Morning received by General Melas from General Karaczai, (who commanded a Corps of Six Thousand Men near Novi to observe the chief Débouché from Genoa,) stating that he had been attacked by very superior Numbers of the Enemy, and, after a very severe Engagement, had been obliged to retire with considerable Loss to Alexandria, where he had taken up a Position behind the Bormida. General Kray marched this Morning with a considerable Reinforcement, and I hope will arrive Time enough to prevent the Enemy from making any further Progress. A Resolution has been taken on the Part of the Commander in Chief immediately to embody the Piedmontese Army; these Troops are to be placed in every respect upon their ancient footing; they are to take the Oath of Fidelity to the King of Sardinia only; and are in no Manner whatever to be made subject to Austrian Discipline. The Piedmontese Troops that are employed have behaved upon all Occasions in the most gallant and honorable Manner. Vast Numbers of Deserters come in daily, who all describe the Distress of the Enemy, for Want of Provisions, to be extreme.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. BENTINCK.

Head-Quarters, Centalo,
November 6, 1799.

MY LORD,

IN my last Letter I had the Honor of acquainting your Lordship, that in consequence of Information having been received that a large Detachment of the Enemy was coming from the Side of Savoy, the Army made a Movement to its Right. The French having taken Pignerol and Susa, and having advanced to Saluceo, threatening our Communication with Turin, General Melas thought it necessary to march still farther to his Right; and a Camp was chosen between Bra and Fossano. These Operations, when connected with the System of Defence only, upon which this Army had so long been acting, deceived the French into a Belief that the Austrians were in full Retreat. The Evacuation of Mondovi, which was determined upon for the Purpose of adding a very considerable Force to the Army, confirmed still more this Opinion. Elated with the[illegible] Hopes, they advanced on all Points, and on the 3d took Possession of Savigliano.

THREE HALFPENCE HALFPENNY

On the 4th the Enemy marched in Three Columns to attack the Auſtrian Army. The Firſt Column marched from Savigliano by Marenne, the Second by Genola, and the Third marched to the Attack of Foſſano, which had been put in a State of Defence, and was occupied by a conſiderable Garriſon. It happened that the Auſtrian Army moved with the ſame Intent, at the ſame Time, and in the ſame Number of Columns, and upon the ſame Roads. Lieutenant-General Ott commanded the Right Column, Lieutenant-General Elſnitz the Centre, and Major-General Gotterſheim the Left. The Two Armies met at Marenne and Genola. It was not till after a very ſevere Engagement that General Ott obliged the Enemy to fall back from Marenne; a Part retired to Genola, and a Part to Savigliano. General Ott purſued the Enemy to the latter Place, where he took Three Cannon and above One Thouſand Priſoners. The Column of General Elſnitz, that was deſtined for the Attack of Genola, met with a much more formidable Reſiſtance. The Action laſted for ſeveral Hours, and it was not till the Arrival of the Column of General Ott from Savigliano upon the Rear of the French, that Victory declared in Favor of the Auſtrians. The Two Columns immediately proceeded in Purſuit of the Enemy: General Ott by Villa Fallette, General Elſnitz by Valdigi. The Army halted at Night at Centalo. The Column of General Gotterſheim repulſed the French from Foſſano to Murazzo. It will appear ſurpriſing, that, while our Army was at Centalo, a Diviſion of the French Army remained between Murazzo and Ronchi, with the Stura in their Rear, over which there was no Bridge.

Early in the Morning of the 5th the Army marched in Two Columns to Ronchi and Murazzo. The Enemy, ſurpriſed, made no Reſiſtance, and Two Hundred Priſoners were taken without any Loſs. It appears that the French Army was completely defeated, and that this Diviſion was left there without Orders. The Auſtrians have made in the Two Days above Three Thouſand Priſoners. The Army being extremely fatigued remained at Ronchi; but this Morning, General Melas having determined to follow up his Succeſs with the greateſt Vigour, the Army marched in Two Columns, one upon the Intrenched Camp of the Madona del Almo, and the other upon Caſaglia; the Enemy retreated everywhere upon our Approach; it is reported that the French are retiring over the Mountains.

It is impoſſible to do Juſtice to the Valor and Perſeverance of the Auſtrian Army. The Operations of the Army prior and ſubſequent to this Affair, when conſidered in a Military Point of View, entitle the Commander in Chief to the Admiration of the whole World.

Accounts were received Yeſterday from General Kray, that he had attacked the Enemy near Alexandria, had obliged them to retire to Pozzolo Formigoio, with the Loſs of One Thouſand Priſoners.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. BENTINCK.

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